

REMARKS

The applicants have received and reviewed the Official Action mailed on 5 September 2003, and submit this paper as a timely-filed and fully-responsive reply thereto.

Paragraphs 3-6 of the Official Action rejected claims 1-5 as being unpatentable under § 103(a) over Milne in view of Porter. The applicants have reviewed the rejection and the cited art, and have amended Claim 1 as indicated above to recite additional features of the invention. The features now recited in Claim 1 are fully supported in the specification, at least by Figures 4 and 5 and by the corresponding portions of the written description. More particularly, Claim 1 now recites a system for synchronizing display of both non-streaming and streaming presentation data at network nodes.

As discussed in the specification, examples of non-streaming data can include web server content or presentation slides related to a given presentation, and examples of streaming data can include audio or video portions of that given presentation. The non-streaming data typically can be transmitted over a network relatively quickly as compared to the streaming data. Because the non-streaming data arrives at the network nodes well before the corresponding portions of the streaming data, the problem of synchronizing display of the non-stream data with the corresponding streaming data arises. If the presentation as rendered on the various network nodes is to be coherent, the displays of the stream and the non-stream portions of the presentation must be synchronized. Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom recite various aspects of solving this synchronization problem.

Regarding new Claims 6 through 10, these claims provide additional limitations that are believed to provide an combination of limitations undisclosed in the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claims 6 through 10 are each believed to be patentable both due to each claim's distinctive combination of limitations, and due to each claim's dependency upon Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 11, this claim generally recites the limitations of Claim 1 in combination with additional limitations related to synchronizing performances of a networked presentation between at least first and second network nodes so that each of the first and second network nodes output, e.g., at substantially the same time the same portion of the presentation.

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Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 11 is also allowable.

Regarding Claims 12 through 20, these claims provide additional limitations that are believed to provide an combination of limitations undisclosed in the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claims 12 through 20 are each believed to be patentable both due to each claim's distinctive combination of limitations, and due to each claim's dependency upon Claim 11.

Regarding Claim 21, this claim recites similar limitations to those recited in Claim 11. Accordingly, Claim 21 is believed patentable for substantially the same reasons as Claim 11.

Regarding Claims 22 through 24, these claims provide additional limitations that are believed to provide an combination of limitations undisclosed in the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claims 22 through 24 are each believed to be patentable both due to each claim's distinctive combination of limitations, and due to each claim's dependency upon Claim 21.

The applicant requests entry and consideration of this response, and further requests favorable action on this application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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